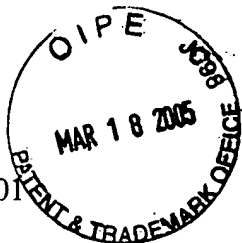


Docket No.: 432-001



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: James D. Martin )  
Serial No.: 10/780,810 ) Art Unit 3644  
Filed: February 18, 2004 ) Examiner:  
For: SPRING-LOADED ANIMAL TETHER ) Teri P. Luu  
ASSEMBLY )

The Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT RESPONSE

This is in response to an outstanding office action of November 18, 2004 in which the examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter of the invention, and rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,408,793 issued to Rutter.

**Extension of Time:** Applicant requests a one month extension of time and an enclosed check for \$60.00 is in payment for the required extension of time fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a)(1).

Applicant's Amendments to Written Description, Claims, Abstract, and Remarks

Applicant's amended written description, claims, abstract of the disclosure, and remarks follow on separate pages as the amendment format requires.

All of the claims 1-20 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. And the prior art has been analyzed to distinguish Applicant's invention with respect to its structural configuration and particular function of its various parts.

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In the DETAILED DESCRIPTION at page 10, between lines 15 and 16 please insert the following paragraph:

As is evident in the drawings and detailed description of this tethering assembly invention, tube portion 16 comprises an inwardly extending rigid, hollow tilt section having an open inner end and an open outer end. Rigid outwardly extending tie section 12 includes means for tethering an animal at a distal end section thereof, and is connected at an opposing coupling end section thereof to the open outer end of tube portion 16. Base surface 23a contiguously mates with respect to the open inner end of rigid, hollow tube portion or tilt section 16, and is held in place with spring-loaded spring member 18 in a manner shown that is effective to continuously urge base surface 23a against the open inner end of tube portion or tilt section 16. Spring member 18 disposed within tube portion or tilt section 16 has an amount of force sufficient to project rigid tie section 12 that is coupled to the outer end of tilt section 16 in a direction outwardly from base surface 23a. Spring member 18 is further effective to allow tilt section 16 to freely tilt with respect to base surface 23a in response to movement of a tethered animal. Spring member 18 is connected to the opposing coupling end section inside hollow tube portion or tilt section 16 for continuously drawing rigid tie section 12 and tilt section 16 under tension in a direction toward base surface 23a.